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Pollution Prevention Checklist for Printshops

This checklist can be used to indicate areas where pollution prevention and waste reduction measures may be possible at your shop.

Alternative Materials

- ☐ Use vegetable-based or other non-petroleum-based inks.
- ☐ Use ink that is free of heavy metals.
- ☐ Use waterless offset printing if suitable.
- ☐ Consider non-hazardous solvents & cleaning solutions.

Inventory & Housekeeping

- ☐ Use an inventory method that includes first-in, first-out practices to prevent waste.
- ☐ Maintain correct climate controls to maximize the shelf life of raw materials.
- ☐ Consider ordering raw materials in bulk to minimize packaging, but don't over-order.
- ☐ Properly label all containers.
- ☐ Keep lids on containers when not in use.
- ☐ Keep solvent tank lids closed when not in use.
- ☐ Store chemicals away from high traffic areas.

Platemaking

- ☐ Use direct-to-plate or computer-to-plate technology to reduce chemical & solvent use and save time.
- ☐ Explore less hazardous finishers & developers.
- ☐ Recycle used and damaged plates.

Printing

- ☐ Minimize color changes. Run the lightest batch to the darkest batch to reduce cleaning time and solvent use.
- ☐ Run similar jobs back-to-back.
- ☐ Dedicate one press for specific inks, if applicable.
- ☐ Fill ink fountains to meet each job's specifications.
- ☐ Use automatic ink levelers, if possible.
- ☐ Clean ink fountains only when changing inks or if the ink dries.
- ☐ Use an in-shop mixing system to utilize old or used ink.

Finishing

- ☐ Choose water-based adhesives over solvent-based adhesives.
- ☐ Use mechanical binding methods whenever possible.
- ☐ Recycle waste paper.

Cleanup

- ☐ Use dry and non-solvent cleaning procedures when applicable.
- ☐ Use the least amount of cleaner possible.
- ☐ Recycle spent solvents.
- ☐ Clean with reusable towels instead of disposable wipes.
- ☐ Launder and reuse rags.

Waste Accounting

- ☐ Recycle leftover ink if applicable. Utilize an in-shop mixing system, return to supplier, or sell at a reduced cost.
- ☐ Keep hazardous and non-hazardous waste separated.
- ☐ Keep records of wastes generated to help determine where waste reductions may be possible.

Note: These are recommendations only, not requirements under Idaho law. Implementation of these recommendations does not assure compliance with Federal and State statutes and regulations applicable to hazardous waste generators (IDAPA 58.01.05).



Printed on recycled paper. June 2003